South Scituate Dec. 27. '36

My Dear Friends

Your kind note of Dec 14 has just come to my hand. It was directed to Scituate — five miles from this — and there it has remained until this evening. I have been to Scituate to give a lecture, and the Postmaster just came with two other letters into my hand. — I thank you and the ladies for the invitation to your Fair. You need not be assured that I should have gladly accepted it, had I received it in due time, and had I not been otherwise engaged. But, as you have probably heard before now, I was at Plymouth on the 22 and delivered an anti-slavery address there. I never attuned myself so strongly. It seemed to me a suitable occasion to plead with all my might the cause of liberty. I ~~conten~~ claimed that the abolitionists are contending in the same cause which our pilgrim fathers espoused — that the cause of freedom and of anti slavery are, in this country, identical — that it is hypocritical in any one to pretend that he is a friend of liberty so long as he is indifferent to the condition of the millions in our land to whom it is utterly denied — I pointed out as I was able the fearful encroach-

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ments which have been made upon the rights of the people, who are not yet slaves — the people of New England, of Massachusetts. I spoke emphatically of the cowardly assault made upon them by Jos. Everett, and plainly intimated that Mr Webster had not acted consistently with the principles he avowed, and the spirit he manifested in his address at Plymouth Dec. 1820. These personal allusions I suspect gave offence to these political partizans — but I could not suppress them.

I hope you were successful in your Fair — and that in all respects you feel encouraged.

This afternoon I received and read Dr Channing's letter to Br Birney. He is still unfair in his judgment of the Abolitionists — and yet he has accorded to them some high praise.

I hope you will send the Dr a copy of the Report — and I think it may be well for you to bestow a copy upon a number of the editors.

My wife desires me to express to you her kind regards. Remember me affectionately to your husband and sisters — believe me with very sincere esteem

Yours

Samuel J. May.

P. S. I suppose to be at the Annual Meeting of the Mass. Soc'y I shall not

probably be in Boston before that meeting. —

I am anxious that the colored people should present a petition to the Legislature of Massachusetts setting forth the grievances they suffer under the operation of the laws of the Southern States, and praying the Legislature to remonstrate in their behalf with the Legislatures of those States. They are citizens of this commonwealth and we should insist that they be respected as such. If you approve of this plan do give it an impulse among them. They may find all the facts they will need to state, in the petition presented last winter by George Odiorne & others.

I am going to stir up the colored people of N. Bedford to do something of the kind. —

I will thank you to say to sister Caroline that I received her letter by Miss Lincoln and attended to the request with pleasure. I should have written to her — but my engagements since I came to South Scituate have been incessant.

other people's letters
in my possession

South Scituate
Mass Dec 28

Mrs M. W. Chapman
care of
Mr Henry G. Chapman.
Boston.

Samuel J. May
Dec 27 1836

Ms. A.9.3.8 p. 82b